

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-05 AGR-05

AGRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 EB-07

COME-00 OES-06 /094 W

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R 151122Z SEP 76

FM UGEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8307

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL DOUALA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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CASABLANCA FOR FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT EG GB US

SUBJ: ANNOBON DELEGATION SEEKS U.S. HELP

REF: A) STATE 217327, B) LIBREVILLE 1649

1. ANNOBON DELEGATION CALLED AT EMBASSY SEPTEMBER 14 REQUESTING TO SEE "PERSONALITY" AND WERE RECEIVED BY DCM. DELEGATION REPEATED ESSENTIALLY SAME STORY TOLD TO UNDP (REFTEL B) AND GAVE DCM EIGHT-PAGE HANDWRITTEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT OF U.S. (POUCHED AF/C SEPTEMBER 14). LETTER OUTLINES PLIGHT OF ISLAND'S ABANDONED POPULATION AND REQUESTS ANY KIND OF HELP, ESPECIALLY MEDICINES TO COMBAT CHOLERA, MEASLES AND POLIO.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, DCM RAISED QUESTION OF POSSIBLE REACTION TO DELEGATION'S ACTIVITIES BY MACIAS' GOVERNMENT. GROUP ADMITTED THAT ANNOBON WOULD RATHER BE SEPARATED FROM EQUATORIAL GUINEA IF THAT WERE POSSIBLE, BUT SAID THAT THEIR CASE WAS NOT ONE OF SECESSION BUT OF SIMPLE SURVIVAL. ISLANDERS
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HAVE BEEN RADIOING PLEAS TO MALABO FOR HELP FOR LAST TWO YEARS

AND ONLY RESPONSE HAS BEEN ONE SHIP DURING THIS PERIOD. SHI BROUGHT ONLY FEW AGRICULTURAL TOOLS AND SUPPLIES WHICH WERE OFFERED TO ISLANDERS FOR CASH. WHEN INFORMED THAT NO MONEY LEFT ON ISLAND, SHIP'S CREW WEIGHED ANCHOR WITH MOST SUPPLIES STILL ON BOARD.

3. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IN REF (A), DCM POINTED OUT THAT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT U.S. ABLE TO HELP ON BILATERAL BASIS. ANNOBON DELEGATION, WHILE DISAPPOINTED AT INABILITY OF USG TO OFFER DIRECT ASSISTANCE, ASKED IF ANYTHING AT ALL COULD BE DONE TO HELP. FOR EXAMPLE, DELEGATION SPOKE OF GIFTS OF FOOD FROM U.S. TUNA BOATS THAT CALLED ON ISLAND DURING FALL FISHING SEASON IN PREVIOUS YEARS. WAS THERE ANY WAY, DELEGATION ASKED, TO LET CAPTAINS OF THESE BOATS KNOW THAT ISLAND NOW DESPERATELY NEEDS MEDICINES, SIMPLE TOOLS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES AS WELL AS FOOD WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN PREVIOUSLY?

4. WHILE DCM MADE NO PROMISES, EMBASSY WONDERS IF DEPT. MIGHT BE WILLING CONTACT U.S. TUNA COMPANIES, SUCH AS STARKIST, DEL MONTE AND ZAPATA OCEAN RESOURCES IN SAN DIEGO, ON INFORMAL BASIS TO TELL THEM OF ANNOBON'S CURRENT PLIGHT. PERHAPS SUCH OTHER PRIVATE DONORS AS RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS OR DRUG COMPANIES MIGHT BE PREPARED TO SUPPLY MEDICINES, TOOLS AND FOOD WHICH TUNA BOATS COULD THEN DELIVER TO ANNOBON THIS FALL. FYI: EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT UNDP RES REP IN LIBREVILLE HAS APPROACHED UNDP HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK WITH SIMILAR SUGGESTION INVOLVING VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE FROM TUNA FLEET AND OTHER PRIVATE DONORS. END FYI.

5. EMBASSY REALIZES THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD GO BEYOND NORMAL CALL OF DUTY AND MIGHT POSE PROBLEM VIS-A-VIS GOEG IF USG ROLE BECOMES WIDELY KNOWN, BUT HOPES SOMETHING CAN BE DONE TO HELP 4,000 LOST SOULS ON ANNOBON. STEIGMAN

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